

ILK NUMBER EIGHT
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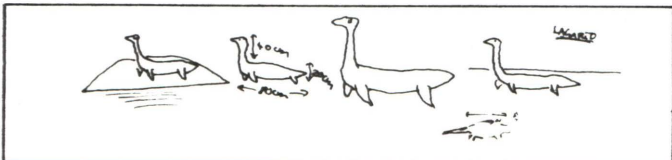


helpless sea-monsters stranded on the shore,
marooned in an ecstasy of waiting,
I yearn, although knowing that I shall dive no more,
in the tide already racing.

Peter Hammill: My room (Waiting for wonderland), 1976

BEHEMOTH:

- Loch Ness: Hessen 3, a German television station, had a film on amateur documentaries on March 17, 1986, from 7.05 - 8 pm. One of the films shown had been directed by Jürgen Vanscheidt and was about a Loch Ness expedition by German scouts. On July 23, 1984, he reported, the scout's ship was rammed by Nessie and sunk. On the following day, the monster still circled the ship, and the frightened scouts were shown. All one could see in the video were some obvious boat-wakes, and it became clear that this was no documentary, as announced, but some kind of childish comedy.
- Venezuela: The German magazine GEO, already mentioned in last issue of BILK, has in its April issue a long article about an expedition to a rocky tower in the Venezuelan jungle, called Auyán Tepui. Uwe George, the leader of the expedition, met there Alexander Laime, a British eremit, who was one of the first to explore this rock-tower. (There are several hundreds of this mountains in the region, only very few are known, and more than the half is still completely unexplored.) Laime was searching for diamonds in 1955 when he encountered several strange animals on the top of the mountain. It were three of them, about 80 cm long, with a neck 40 cm long, and a body height of 20 cm. They behaved like seals basking on the shore of a river. They had very long necks, a scaly body, reptile heads and four scaly flippers. Later he went through a book of prehistoric animals, and pointed out to George that his animals must have been plesiosaurs. George, a famous scientists, concludes that Laime could be right, as smaller saurians would have had the greatest change of survival. Furthermore, the fauna of the rock-towers is very ancient, and the expedition itself discovered several 'living fossils', one of them a strange frog. (GEO, 4/86,p.36). The LONDON TIMES, 8.12.1975, p.1d, had a short item of a British expedition led by Mr David Nott, to a "4,500 ft rock tower...in the water-logged jungle of south-west Venezuela...reputed to be the home of a man-eating monster." Though Auyán Tepui lies in the very south-east, both locations might be identical.
- Africa: The WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL, Madison, WI, Nov. 25, 1985, had an article about Herman Regusters and his Unicorn expedition, who, among many others, try to find a dinosaur in the Congo. It seems that this expedition has been delayed several times, and has



Several of the sketches Laime drew of the animals he claims he saw in Venezuela in 1955.

not yet started its search, though they already have complete equipment. They say they still need \$ 20,000 to cover costs. Perhaps they should search one step nearer at home, in Venezuela? (Credit: Joe Zarzynski)

ISIS:

● Black Sea: A mummy of a mermaid, some 3,000 years old, according to Soviet scientists, was found at a grave site near Sochi, at the Black Sea. The "creature measured 5 ft 9 in from the top of her head to the tip of her broad, scaly tail. They believe she was more than 100 years old when she died...Judging by the treasure buried with her, they have concluded that she was a revered member of her society and was most likely considered a queen or goddess." This news was brought to the West by a Soviet scientist, Dr. A.N. Yerimia, and told to the world by an American tabloid, most likely the NATIONAL ENQUIRER. The undated clipping (January 1986??) was sent to me by Janet and Colin Bord. (Many tanx!!) The story sounds like a hoax, but I'd like to point out two things: 1. Many gods and goddesses of the ancient Middle East were mermaid like creatures (Oannes, Ea, or: Isis, indeed), and 2. there are several cases of malformed babies who were born with a fish-like tail. Usually they die within hours after their birth, but such an incident happening in a society that worshipped a mermaid-goddess could lead to such a ceremonial bury.

● Bahrein: "Sea Cows Ban: Bahrain has banned catching of dugongs (sea-cows) in its waters in an attempt to preserve the endangered sea mammals. A shoal of 300 to 500 has been spotted east of Bahrain. - Reuter." (DAILY TELEGRAPH, 14.March 1986, p.5a)

KRAKEN:

● Italy: On March 5, a monstrous octopus was washed on the shore of Sapri in the Gulf of Policastro. It was investigated by Prof. Cesare Pifano and Prof. Antonietta Ciccarelli. The animal had a bad odour and was very much mutilated, yet its eight arms were very clearly visible. LA STAMPA (6.3., 11) says its "dimension was 4 metres", CORRIERE DELLA SERA (6.3., 4e) that its tentacles "were longer than 10 metres", and DIE RHEINPFALZ (6.3.) says that its arms were some 10 metres long. If it had a span of 4 metres, it would be a very big octopus, if the span was 8, 10, or even 20 m, it would rival the Bahamian Octopus giganteus verill. For more ifos about the Mediterranean monster octopus, see my article in Pursuit, vol.18, nr.3, pp.128/29.

USOS:

● Cook Islands: A New Zealand Air Force orion aircraft spotted a USO off Cook Ids. early in March. It was established that it was not French, and the Air Force claim to have identified it, but do not state what it was. Anti-nuclear activist Owen Wilkes thinks it was an American vessel pretending to be Soviet: "A Russian scare in the South Pacific could hardly come at a more opportune time for the United States", Wilkes declared. (ARAB NEWS, 5.March 1986, p.1abc)

OTHER STUFF:

● A "seamonster", a 18 ft crocodile, killed a female fisherman in Nrth Australia. She was swimming just 8 ft from the boat 'Kiama', when two giant jaws came out of the water and swallowed her. (RHEINPFALZ, 13.2.86)

● There were two mass-strandings near New Zealand (of whales). The first was described in THE TIMES (18.1.86). In February some 100 whales out of a group of 500, put themselves ashore. (RHEINPFALZ and BILD 25.2.1986)

● "Flood offering: Lima (AFP) - Villagers at Chumunrani hacked a peasant farmer, aged 37, to pieces as a human sacrifice to the floodwaters of Lake Titicaca on ^{the} Peru-Bolivia border." (THE TIMES, 5.3.86, p.6h; also LA STAMPA, 5.3.86, p.1ab) See Costello for other sacrifices to lakes.

● KOSMOS, Stuttgart, January 86, p.32, has a report of German palaeontologist Prof Heinz Erben, Bonn. He found dinosaur bones in strata of the Tertiary in France, New Mexico and China. Another jigsaw piece in the search of surviving dinos.

● This is the end of BILK EIGHT, I hope you liked it, send in news & views as usual. Next BILK in July. I wish you fine swimming weather, look twice before you dive - somewhere down there is...